(c) and (d) There is no specific categorization for heavy industries. However, 539 Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda have been filed and 3 Direct Industry Licenses (DILs) have been issued for the State of Jharkhand since January 2004 to May 2009.

(e) and (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Braithwaite and Company Ltd., Kolkata

†1091. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Braithwaite and Company Limited situated at Kolkata manufacturers only railway wagon at present;

(b) whether this is the reason that all the staff and the officers of the company want its merger with the Railways;

(c) whether Government has received any memorandum in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) The core business of M/s. Brathwaite and Company Limited (BCL) situated at Kolkata is manufacturing of Railway wagons, bogies and couplers for Railway wagons. Apart from this, the company is also engaged in fabrication of bridge girders and structural works and entering into crane business and civil construction.

Some of the employees of Braithwaite and Company Limited have sent representation to Ministry of Railway on 16.06.2009 requesting for takeover of Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. by Ministry of Railways.

(d) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises proposes to examine the transfer of wagon manufacturing units of M/s. Braithwaite and Co. Ltd. (BCL) to Ministry of Railways in consultation and with the consent of that Ministry.

The Ministry has requested the Ministry of Railways to consider taking over of the units of Braithwaite and Company Limited.

Literacy among minorities

1092. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take steps to enhance literacy among the minorities; and

(b) if so, what are the plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) One of the National Literacy Goals is to reduce

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

social disparities in literacy. The National Literacy Mission (NLM) has accordingly identified minorities, specially women, as one of its prime focussed groups for literacy.

Recommendation of Yashpal Committee

1093. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yashpal Committee to look into the reforms in higher education in India has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the corruption and nepotism in All India Council for Technical Education, Medical Council of India and University Grants Commission in their functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government proposes to scrap the said organisations as per the recommendation of the Committee and instead set up a high powered regulator on the pattern of Election Commission of India;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The "Committees to Advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education" constituted by the Government under Prof. Yash Pal has submitted its Report on 24th June, 2009. The recommendations of the Committee, *inter-alia*, are:

(i) Creation of an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER), a Constitutional body to replace the existing regulatory bodies including the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), National Council for Teachers Education (NCTE) and Distance Education Council (DEC) and to follow up the Constitutional amendment with an appropriate law for the Commission's functioning;

(ii) Universities are to be made responsible regarding the academic content of all courses and programmes of study including professional courses. Professional bodies like the AICTE, NCTE, MCI, BCI, COA, INC, PCI etc. to be divested of their academic functions, which would be restored to the universities;

(iii) Curricular reform should be the top most priority of the newly created NCHER which would create a curricular framework based on the principles of mobility within a full range of curricular areas and integration of skills with academic depth;